

**REMARKS**

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 11 have been amended and new claim 14 has been added. Claims 1 and 4-14 are pending and under consideration.

**EXAMINER INTERVIEWS:**

An in-person interview was conducted between the Examiner and Applicant's representative on September 1, 2004. A telephonic interview was conducted between the Examiner and Applicant's representative on September 28, 2004. The Examiner is thanked for his time.

**FINALITY OF OFFICE ACTION:**

As discussed in the September 28, 2004 interview, the finality of the Office Action is improper according to MPEP 706.07(b). The Examiner indicated agreement during the interview, as evidenced by the interview Summary (copy enclosed). On September 29, 2004, Applicant filed a communication (copy enclosed) requesting a formal communication from the Examiner withdrawing the finality of the Office Action. At the present time, the Applicant has not yet received such a communication from the Examiner.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the finality of the Office Action is requested.

**REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:**

*Claims 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ishikawa et al. Claims 1, 4-10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ishikawa et al.*

Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites "a spacer disposed between the second and third plates and defining a single through hole to receive a plurality of the contactors." For example, present FIG. 7 illustrates this feature. In contrast, Ishikawa et al. discloses a single needle-like element 7 in each single through hole 3a. Ishikawa et al., FIG. 1.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 14 is added and recites "the spacer to define a continuous through hole to receive a plurality of the contactors." It is respectfully submitted that the cited reference does not disclose this feature.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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